

Board of Directors Meeting Street Town Hall

Town of North Providence

2000 Smith Street

North Providence, Rhode Island 02911

Date: July 21, 2014

2:00pm

Posted: September 02, 2014,

Minutes

Present:

Chairman: Mayor Charles A. Lombardi,

Board Members: John Kelly, Bianca Rodriguez

1. Welcome

Chairman Lombardi opened The Hope Academy Board meeting at 2:16 pm and welcomed the group. Margaret Knowlton introduced the new Hope Academy staff, Donna Dimery, Head of School, Giselle Pellerano-Monserratt, Operations Manager, and Deborah Malachowski, Administrative Assistant.

2. Review of Minutes of April 25th meeting

With the absence of any questions or comments, Chairman Lombardi asked for approval of the April 25th meeting minutes.

VOTE

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Update and Discussion of Start-Up Activities

Margaret Knowlton updated the Board on the progress of The Hope Academy. Thirty six (36) students are registered. Thomas Conlon, UCOA Contractor/Financial Officer, has completed the budget for Hope Academy expenditures including curriculum, lunch and transportation. Furniture will be ordered this week and the academy has received a school aid check and tuition(s) from districts are upcoming. Policies will continue to be updated on an as needed basis. Chairman Lombardi noted Member Mr. Toby Shepherd has stepped down from the Board and a new member will be appointed by Mayor Taveras. John Kelly informed the Board that five (5) additional seats will be appointed/elected this fall. The Board noted the good work of Mr. Shepherd.

4. Presentation and Approval of The Hope Academy 403(b) Plan (the “Plan”)

The plan was reviewed by the members.

VOTE

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to approve, Chairman Lombardi seconded the motion and the The Hope Academy 403(b) Plan (the “Plan”) was unanimously approved by the Board.

5. Presentation and Approval of an Amendment to the Plan to comply with the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 and the Worker, Retiree and employer Recovery act of 2008.

The plan was reviewed by the members.

VOTE

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the plan and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and the plan was unanimously approved by the Board.

6. Presentation and Approval of the School Safety Plan

7. Presentation and Approval of the Crisis Response Plan

Mr. Kelly explained that the Crisis Response and School Safety Plan are the same. Margaret Knowlton reviewed the plan and explained that the details are based on the Rhode Island Emergency system. Chairman Lombardi had questions regarding the amount of nurses who are on site in the building. Margaret Knowlton also gave information on an additional nurse/health teacher position for Hope Academy.

VOTE

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Crisis Response Plan, Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and the plan was unanimously approved by the Board.

8. Review of Staffing Plan and Approval of the Head of School

Margaret Knowlton reviewed the entire staff that has been hired for Hope Academy in addition to the staff who were introduced earlier it

includes two (2) teachers, two (2) teacher assistants and a part time Special Education Literacy Specialist. Donna Dimery has accepted the position of Head of School. Chairman Lombardi noted the importance of the Head of School choice.

VOTE

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to approve; Chairman Lombardi seconded the motion and the position was approved unanimously approved by the Board.

9. Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items

Mr. Kelly noted that there would most likely be a few other policies to be adopted before the start of the school year.

10. Board Schedule

Chairman Lombardi offered to have future meetings take place at The Hope Academy.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn, Chairman Lombardi seconded the motion and the Board unanimously agreed. The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Malachowski

Administrative Assistant

The Hope Academy